

Continued: *Who?*

I called this meeting of the Commission because of something that developed today that I thought every member of the Commission should have knowledge of, something that you shouldn't hear from the public before you had an opportunity to think about it. I will just have Mr. Rawkin tell you the story from the beginning. |?

Mr. Rawkin: Mr. Wagner Carr, the Attorney General of Texas, called me at 11:10 this morning and said that the word had come out, he wanted to get it to me at the first moment, that Oswald was acting as an FBI Undercover Agent, and that they had the information of his badge which was given as Number 179, and that he was being paid two hundred a month from September of 1962 up through the time of the assassination. I asked what the source of this was, and he said that he understood the information had been made available so that Defense Counsel for Ruby had that information, that he knew that the press had the information, and he didn't know exactly where Wade had gotten the information, but he was a former FBI Agent.

That they, that is, Wade before, had said that he had sufficient so that he was willing to make the statement.

Ford: Wade is?

A: The District Attorney.

Ford: Carr is the Attorney General.

Eggs: Right, of Texas.

Rawkin: I brought that to the attention of the Chief Justice immediately, and he said that I should try to get in touch with Carr and ask him to bring Wade up here, and he would be willing to meet with him any time today or tonight to find out what was the basis of this story. I tried to get Carr

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on the Assassination of President Kennedy of January 22, 1964*

and he was out campaigning in Texas and so forth, and so it took us quite a while to get back to him and talk to him. I just got through talking to him and he told me the source of the information was a member of the press who had claimed he knew of such an agency, that he was an undercover agent, but he now is coming with the information as to his particular number and the amount he was getting and the detail as to the time when the payments started. Wade said he as well as him did not know the name of the informant but he could guess who it was, that it was given to his assistant, and he was sure that he knew, and he said he was trying to check it out to get more definite information. Carr said that he could bring Wade in some time the first of the week, but in light of the fact that it was this man of the press and that they did not think it would be broken by the press immediately, although there had been all kinds of stories down there but Carr said there were some 25 to 40 different stories about this being the case admonishing the press themselves, but this was the first time that he got something definite as to how they were handling it or how it could be handled by himself. But I was concerned of an undercover agent. He thought that the press would not bring the story without some further proof, and they are working on that now, he said. So he thought that if he brought Wade back on Monday or Tuesday, that that would still take care of any major problem. When he first told us, he said the press had it and he was fearful because he hadn't even gotten this from Wade. He got it from another man that the press would bring it before we could know about it and the Commission would be asked all kinds of questions without having information about it. Now he said Wade told him that the FBI never keeps any records of names.

Mr. Boggs: Wade is the District Attorney for Dallas County?

Rawkin: That is right.

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Q: And the other man, Carr, is the Attorney General?

A: That is right.

Q: And the other people who have knowledge of this story?

A: He indicated that the press down there had knowledge of this story, and that the information came from some informant who was a press representative, and he, that is, Wade, could guess who it was but his assistant knew and he never asked him. They were trying to get more explicit information.

A: Lee, would you tell them?

Mr. Dulles: Who were you talking with when you got this information, Wade himself?

A: I was talking with Carr.

Boggs: There is a denial of this in one of these FBI records, as you know.

A: Yes.

Cooper: In this file we had yesterday, one of the lawyers for this fellow who claims to represent --

Boggs: Thornhill, I think.

Cooper: Oswald or one of them, Ruby, told about this, do you recall it, he said it was being rumored around.

Rawkin: Yes, it was being rumored that he was an undercover agent. Now it is something that would be very difficult to prove out. There are events in connection with this that are curious, in that they might make it possible to check some of it out in time. I assume that the FBI records would never show it, and if it is true, and of course we don't know, but we thought you should have the information.

A: Lee, would you tell the gentlemen the circumstances under which this story was told?

A: Yes, When it was first brought to my attention this morning --

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Boggs: What time was this, Lee?

A: 11. 10.

Boggs: That is after the Ruby episode of yesterday?

A: That is right.

Q: Yes.

A: And Mr. Carr said that they had used this saying before the Court that they thought they knew why the FBI was so willing to give some of these records to the Defense Counsel, and they were ing to the Defense Counsel being able to get the records and asking the Court to rule that they couldn't get them.

Q: That is, the District Attorney was?

A: That is right, and he said a number of these records were furnished by the Texas authorities, and that they should not be given up to the Defense Counsel, and that the reason he thought that they were so eager to help Ruby was because they had the undercover, that Oswald was the undercover agent and had the number of his badge and so much, he was getting two hundred a month and so forth, and that was the way it was explained as his justification to the Court as a basis for determining the records and that that was the excuse the FBI, the reason the FBI had for being so eager to give the records up. That is the way it was developed. Now Mr. Jaworski, who is associated with the Attorney General working on this matter was reported to you before, and

, story, I don't talk to Story about it but I did talk to Jaworski and he said he didn't think Wade would say anything like this unless he had some substantial information back of it, and thought he could prove it, because he thought it would ruin many in politics, in Texas, to be making such a claim, and then have it shown that there was nothing to it.

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Doggs: No doubt about it, it would ruin many.

A: And Jaworski is an able lawyer, mature and very competent. We have complete confidence in him as a person. Now that is the evaluation of the situation.

Ford: He hasn't made any investigations himself?

A: No, he has not.

Ford: Was Wade or anyone connected with Wade?

A: No.

Dulles: Talking about Story, just a few minutes ago just telling him I wasn't going to be down in Texas, I had told him I was going to be down at the time, he didn't indicate that he had anything of any importance on his mind. Maybe he won't offer it to him obviously.

Rawkin: I don't know that it was even brought to his attention.

Dulles: I don't believe it was, now. Of course, he is not in the hierarchy.

A: Well, I think they were planning on telling the Attorney General and Jaworski.

Ford: How long ago did they get a feeling that there was some substance to the rumors that apparently had been -- I just assumed, and I didn't ask them that, that Carr called me and seemed to be in a matter of great urgency at 11:10 this morning, and that he was fearful that they would bring in the papers before we would even get to know about it, and that is the way he was talking and acting about it.

Cooper: He felt there was ... He didn't know the name of the informant?

A: No, he did not.

Q: What then would lead him to think it had substance?

A: Well, he said that the reason he thought it might have substance was because Wade had heard these rumors constantly, and his assistant had gotten

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